

Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Matzke, to open on the bill.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this bill deals with teachers' competency testing. When I approached this, let me give you a little background, when I approached the subject I was primarily concerned with the matter of reciprocity where teachers and administrators had taken a similar test in other states there's no provision in our law to take that into account. When I began to study the matter I found out that the Board of Education and the Department of Education are conducting studies on this very subject and are working on it and will probably come up with recommendations some time during the next year, so I did not pursue those issues. But in examining the present law we found an inconsistency in the statute which deals with the granting of temporary certificates. In part of the law the board is restricted to granting a temporary certificate to two years. As a matter of fact, there are three provisions in the statute restricting to two years and provision that we are seeking to amend here provided for one year and so we're adding another additional year so that the present statute is consistent. I received some unexpected support for this bill from the Lincoln Public School System. They testified in support of the bill before the committee. When they recruit minority teachers there sometimes are requirements for additional educational courses because they obtained these teachers generally from outside of Nebraska and this would give them additional time to qualify their teachers with a temporary certificate. Actually all the bill does is extend an additional year authority for the granting of temporary certificates and it gives teachers an additional year to pass the present competency examination and it gets rid of the inconsistency which is in Section 79-1247.05. I would ask that the bill be advanced.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Senator Matzke. There are no other lights on, did you wish to close? Senator Matzke waived closing. We'll proceed to vote on the advancement of LB 123. We're voting on the advancement of LB 123, please.